

VoiceThreads in the Classroom



‘Participation is not optional’

A VoiceThread allows every student in a class to easily record audio commentary about the ideas and experiences that are important to them. Whether it’s an event, a project, or a milestone, students can tell their story in their own voice, and then share it with the world.

For educators, a VoiceThread offers a way to teach the principles of good digital citizenship as well as providing a single vessel to capture and then share all the diverse personalities of an entire class. A VoiceThread can be managed with little effort, creating digital heirlooms that can be shared by students, parents, and educators alike. Pride and excitement is clearly evident in student voices as they “publish” and archive their work.



Behind every photo, drawing, or project, is at least one story, and often many more. VoiceThreads offer a simple way to capture and share them. This act of ‘publishing’ a creation which can then be seen all the way from Cheyenne to Shanghai,

strongly reinforces the message we try to send to our children everyday, that their work is great, and worthy of the world’s attention.

VoiceThreads are free for educators! Creating VoiceThreads will always be free for K-12 classroom educators and the kids that fill their classrooms. This includes publishing them on the web, and sharing them with the child’s friends and family. Voicethread will only charge for premium services like <http://ed.voicethread> or archival movie versions of student work. It’s really important to us that there is no barrier to entry, no cost to fully participate, no software to buy or download, and no contracts to manage.

Step by Step

1. Go to www.ed.voicethread.com/pricing/k12/ and click the button to get the free educator account, or pay the \$10 to join Ed.VoiceThread. Fill out the registration form and then click the link in a confirmation e-mail and you're all set.
2. Go to the **Create** page and make the VoiceThread by importing and arranging images, documents, presentations, or short video.
3. If your students are under 13 years old or they're not eligible for their own free voicethread accounts because your school doesn't allow students to use email then there are two options: get a Classroom Subscription to Ed.VoiceThread, www.ed.voicethread.com/pricing/k12/ or you can have them comment using our 'Identities' feature. If you do allow your students to use 'Identities' just make sure you understand how they work and have seen the tutorial for educators, <http://ed.voicethread.com/share/240771>
4. It's important to have your students prepare to comment on the images by at least thinking about the story, issue, or problem behind the images, and even better, to write a script for their commentary. Remember to allow enough time for the students to edit their comments, deleting and re-recording them until they are satisfied and proud of their work.

That's it; you're all set to make a classroom VoiceThread. After the VoiceThread is complete, send invitations out to all the parents. You can even choose to add a page at the end of your book for the parents to leave their comments. Keep in mind that each and every VoiceThread starts out absolutely private, and is only viewable by people whom you invite. After you've made a couple of VoiceThreads you can experiment and explore other formats, i.e. poetry readings, mathcasts, book clubs and VoiceThreads made and then narrated by individual students. The possibilities are limitless. Also, please tell us about your experience by going to the [VoiceThread U. Forum](#) on our site. We need lots of help as we develop classroom specific features and we're counting on your guidance.
